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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,761	09/10/2003	Christopher G. Walls	3962 P 023	4840

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EXAMINER

ESTREMSKY, GARY WAYNE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3676

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/659,761

Applicant(s)

WALLS ET AL.

Examiner

Gary Estremsky

Art Unit

3676



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16-19 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 6, 9, 11-13, 15 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/29/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities :

Recitation of "the first and second pillars" lacks clear antecedent basis in the claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is not clear if recitations of "second leg" and "first leg" at line 5 refer to legs of the first or second member. Other than the lack of clarity noted, as best understood, the claim appears to be substantial duplicate of claim 4 and is objected to accordingly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19, and 21 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 186,018 to Ransom.

Ransom '018 teaches Applicant's claim limitations including :a "first member" - left spindle half as shown in Fig 2, a "first leg" - g', extending from the "base" - a, "second leg extending from the base" - portion of e extending downwardly as shown in Fig 2, a "second member" - the other spindle half as shown in Fig 2, having a "first leg" - g', and a "second leg" - portion of e extending upwardly.

As regards claims 2-4, the nesting hollows formed by the structures of the prior art teach "recessed" limitations.

As regards claim 10, a seam is illustrated between spindle halves in Fig 2. That seam is inherently "adapted to receive a set screw for fastening the spindle to a door handle", for example in the case of a handle having a very long shang that extends well over the overlap, a set screw could be seated directly against the seam of the spindle halves. The reference does not illustrate such arrangement, but there is no requirement for it to do so since the additional elements and arrangement of the "adapted to" limitation are not positively claimed as comprising the invention. It has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchison*, 69 USPQ 138.

As regards claim 7, portion of e of left (as shown in Fig 2) spindle extending upwardly reads on "pillar".

As regards claims 16 and 17, it's noted that part g of the reference is described as a 'rivet' but that claims do not positively recite a "set screw" as part of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 186,018 to Ransom in view of U.S. Pat. No. 472,725 to Burgess.

While Ransom '018 describes part g as a rivet, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to attach the knob using a set screw as taught by Burgess '725 for example so that the knob could be readily removed if desired. One of ordinary skill in the art would have more than a reasonable expectation of success since the proposed modification would not otherwise affect function of the spindle and knob assembly.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 5, 6, 9, 11-13, 15, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


U.S. Pat. No. 506,388 to Clark.

U.S. Pat. No. 671,943 to Smith.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary Estremsky whose telephone number is 703 308-0494. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur 7:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Will can be reached on 703 308-3870. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gary Estremsky
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3676